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MECHANIZATION OF LOGGING INCREASES STEADILY

Before the war, mechanization of lumbering operations in the Karelo-Finnish SSR was confined to loading and transport of timber. In the republic during the prewar period these two operations were not even 30 percent mechanized.

During the years of the postwar Five-Year Plan, however, the Karelo-Finnish SSR has received hundreds of mobile electric power plants and thousands of electric saws for the mechanization of the felling operation.

In 1949, electric saws weighing only 9 kilograms and powered by special high-frequency mobile electric power plants were received by the republic in addition to VAKOPP electric saws weighing 21 kilograms. The new light saws double labor productivity in timber felling and bucking as compared with the VAKOPP saws. The logging enterprises also received mobile electric power plants with a capacity of from 30 to 60 kilowatts, which permit the skidding operation to be electrified through the use of special electric skidding winches.

At present, plans are being worked out for building powerful stationary electric power plants at the logging enterprises. These plants will permit electrification of all phases of operations from timber felling to timber transport and lumber production operations.

The KT-12 skidding tractor and TL-3 skidding winch have solved the problem of mechanizing the skidding operation, which so far has been the bottleneck in logging work and the limiting factor in timber transport. The winch permits skidding to be carried out under all terrain conditions and at the same time is simple to operate and maintain.

The republic has received hundreds of powerful trucks, steam locomotives, wood-gas locomotives, steam cranes for loading timber onto narrow-gauge railroad cars, conveyers, and elevators. Hundreds of kilometers of logging roads of various types have been built. Such road-building machines as bulldozers which replace 50-60 men, graders, scrapers, etc., were used for this purpose.

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Powerful raft-building and log-unloading machines operate in the roadsteads of the log-floating rivers. Motor launches and special motorboats tug logs across lakes. Construction of log-floating installations has been mechanized through the use of special SUTA-1 tractor combines. (1)

The Onega Machine-Building Plant has begun mass production of the powerful TL-3 skidding winch designed by A. N. Bryzgalov, chief engineer of the plant. Experimental models tested in the timber managements of the Karelo-Finnish Republic were rated highly.

The winch has an internal-combustion engine. At an expenditure of 10-12 liters of fuel, the winch assures the skidding of 40-50 cubic meters of timber per shift, which is twice the norm for the KT-12 tractor.

The winch is mounted on skids. When it is to be moved to another place, its drum cable is attached to a stump and the engine moves the machine by reeling in the cable on the drum. (2)

The Onega Machine-Building Plant has also completed the building of a new lighter narrow-gauge wood-gas locomotive, the ALTI-2. It was built according to the specifications of a group of designers at the Arkhangel'sk Wood Technical Institute.

The new locomotive weighs 4 tons, 2 tons less than the previous model. It can haul up to 40 cubic meters of timber in a single load.

The locomotive is intended for use on light temporary tracks which can be laid on any kind of bed, even on swampy ground. It can be hauled into the forest by tractor or truck in fully assembled form. (3)

In the Belorussian SSR, the Bogdanovskiy Model-Experimental Timber Management of Minlesprom Trust has been using the new light TsNIIME K-5 electric saw for timber felling and bucking. The new saw permits felling larger trees. A tree with a trunk 75 centimeters in diameter was sawed through in 4 minutes 35 seconds. When a tree of this size is felled with a conventional type saw, it is necessary to undercut it from two sides.

An outstanding feature of the new saw is its motor which does not overheat in the course of an entire working day, whereas the motor of a conventional saw begins to overheat after 20-25 minutes. Consequently, a saw operator needs only one saw of the new type, while he needs two or three of the older type. Now, one man can perform the bucking operation, whereas two men were required formerly. (4)

The loggers at Mari ASSR give the country millions of cubic meters of timber annually. Stalingrad gets valuable construction timber, the Donbass mines receive pit props, and the railroads obtain ties.

Considerably more timber is to be felled during the current fall and winter season than last season. The logging organizations have received many trucks, skidding tractors and winches, mobile electric power plants, electric saws, and wood-gas locomotives, and much other first-class equipment.

The critical period is now beginning. Thousands of kolkhoz workers are helping the regular loggers. (5)

In West Siberia, all operations from felling to loading onto railroad cars have been mechanized in many timber managements. Mobile electric power plants, electric saws, winches, wood-gas locomotives, skidding tractors, and truck cranes are in service. (6)

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In East Siberia, the Transbaykal logging industry adopted the latest logging technique in 1949. The principal laborious operations have been mecnanized. The workers are quickly mastering the new techniques and raising their productivity. (7)

Ziminskiy Timber Management, the largest management in Irkutsk Oblast, has converted to the continuous logging method. The conversion will permit an increase of 30-40 percent in labor productivity. (8)

SOURCES

1. Leninskoye Znamya, No 219, 5 Nov 49

2. Leningradskaya Pravda, No 278, 26 Nov 49

3. Leningradskaya Pravda, No 284, 3 Dec 49

4. Sovetskaya Belorussiya, No 227, 16 Nov 49

5. Pravda, No 319, 15 Nov 49

6. Pravda, No 323, 19 Nov 49

7. Krasnaya Zvezda, No 285, 3 Dec 49

8. Pravda, No 308, 4 Nov 49

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